

**Preliminary Amendment of U.S. National Stage for International Application
PCT/EP00/02249 filed March 14, 2000**

REMARKS

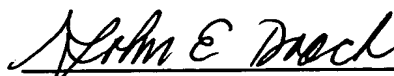
Claims 19-34 are currently pending in the instant application.

The Specification has been amended to include the preferred section headings pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.77. It is submitted that the amendments to the Specification made herein introduce no new matter. Their entry is therefore proper and respectfully requested.

Original claims 1-18 have been canceled and replaced with new claims 19-34 solely for the purpose of improving clarity and grammar, which may suffer in translation, and not for any reason related to the statutory requirements for a patent.

New claims 19-34 have not been added in response to any rejection, or in anticipation of any rejection related to the statutory requirements for a patent. Applicants respectfully submit that the scope of new claims 19-34 corresponds to the scope of original claims 1-18 and that new claims 19-34 are no narrower than original claims 1-18. Furthermore, although a moot point in view of their cancellation, Applicants respectfully submit that original claims 1-18 satisfied the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, as filed. New claims 19-34 are supported by the specification and no new matter has been introduced. Entry is therefore proper and respectfully requested. Prompt examination of the instant application in view of the amendments made herein is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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